



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Public Affairs Office
2400 Wright Street
Madison, WI 53704

Contact: Lt. Col. Tim Donovan
608-242-3050
Cell: 608-516-1777

December 10, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bad weather forces postponement of Chippewa Falls National Guard send-off

Event rescheduled for Thursday at 2:30 p.m.

A winter storm forced the postponement of a send-off for 80 National Guard troops in Chippewa Falls scheduled for this afternoon [Dec. 10]. The event will now be held Thursday, Dec. 11 at 2:30 p.m. at the Chippewa Falls armory, 2811 E. Park Ave., Chippewa Falls.

The half-hour ceremony will honor about 80 National Guard soldiers who entered active duty Dec. 7 and will leave later this week for Fort McCoy before deploying overseas for one year.

Senior National Guard leaders, state and local officials, families, friends, and community supporters are expected to participate in the ceremony, which is also open to the general public. Music will be provided by the National Guard's 132nd Army Band.

Recent mobilizations bring the total number of Wisconsin Army and Air National Guard members on active duty to about 1,710 — which is nearly 18 percent of the Guard's 9,800 soldiers and airmen. Soldiers and airmen from units in 20 Wisconsin communities currently are serving on active duty with the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force. About 930 Wisconsin Guard members are currently serving in Southwest Asia, and at least 200 of the newly mobilized soldiers will also be deployed overseas.

#